

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 17902 131615Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00
PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 ORM-02 IO-13 /045 W
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R 131137Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0009
INFO AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 17902

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, IN, NP
SUBJECT: INDIAN POLICY TOWARD NEPALESE IN INDIA

REF: KATHMANDU 5069

1. IN COURSE OF CONVERSATION WITH MEA OFFICIAL DEALING WITH NEPALESE AFFAIRS DEC. 11, LATTER TOLD EMBOFF THAT GOI DID NOT INTEND TO ADOPT POLICY SPECIFICALLY AIMED AT FORCING NEPALI CITIZENS LIVING IN INDIA TO OPT EITHER FOR INDIAN NATIONALITY OR LOSE THEIR LAND. HE ACKNOWLEDGED THIS HAD BEEN THE EFFECT TO SOME EXTENT OF ASSAMESE LEGISLATION LIMITINT OWNERSHIP TO TRIBAL GROUPS, BUT OBSERVED THAT HIS OWN BROTHER HAD BEEN CAUGHT UP IN THAT SAME LEGISLATION. NEVERTHELESS, ALDN WAS SCARCE AND PRESSURES WERE GROWING ON STATE GOVERNMENTS TO LIMIT INFLUX OF NEPALIS WHO TOOK UP LAND IN BORDER AREAS. THE GOI SUPPORTED THE STATE GOVERNMENTS IN THEIR EFFORTS TO LIMIT FURTHER NEPALI IMMIGRATION FOR THIS REASON, BUT HAD NO INTENTION OF TRYING TO PUSH EXISTING LONG-SETTLED NEPALIS BACK INTO NEPAL. COMMENT: TO THE EXTENT THAT SOME NEPALI SETTLERS IN BORDER AREAS DO NOT HAVE CLEAR TITLE TO LANDS THEY OCCUPY, INDIAN AUTHORITIES CAN, OF COURSE, PROVIDE TITLE TO INDIAN CITIZENS WHO MAY THEN CALL ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUTHORITY TO EXPEL NEPALIS. THIS FALLS IN AREA OF INTENT OF GOI, AND REPRESENTS POTENTIAL LEVER TO BE USED BY GOI WHEN IT WISHES AGAINST GON.

2. MEA OFFICIAL WHEN ASKED ABOUT ACTIVITY OF NEPALI CONGRESS AND B.P. KOIRALA SAID ONLY THAT IT WAS UNDER
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CLOSE SURVEILLANCE. HE SAID HE KNEW OF NO CONNECTION

BETWEEN KOIRALA AND GEORGE FERNANDES.
SCHNEIDER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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